


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: April 1, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
RE: Friday Report 
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 4/04/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and Development Board, 7:30 p.m., Room 209
Tuesday 4/05/11	
Wednesday 4/06/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair Housing Committee, 8:00 a.m., Room 202• Community Preservation Committee, 7:00 p.m., Newton Senior Center (345 Walnut St, Newtonville)• Public Safety & Transportation Committee, 7:45 p.m., Room 202
Thursday 4/07/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoning Reform Scoping Group, 7:00pm, War Memorial• The Farm Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 222• Newtonville Historic District Commission, cancelled• Austin Street JAPG, 7:00 p.m., Newton Senior Center

- **Is it Public Art or are they bike racks?**

You might have noticed the fork, knife and spoon that recently appeared in Newton Centre. They may look like public art, but in fact, there are the first of 109 new bike racks being installed throughout the City by the Departments of Planning, Public Works and Parks & Recreation. This is the final year of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Regional Bicycle Parking program whereby Newton and other communities in the region have been able to purchase and be reimbursed for



selected bicycle rack styles. Check out the new "book" rack at the library, too. For more information, **Contact David Koses at 617.796.1133 or dkoses@newtonma.gov.**

- **Planning and Development Board:** The Planning and Development Board will meet on **Monday, April 4th** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 209. Agenda items for the Board acting at the Community Development Board include the approval of the March 7 and March 17 minutes; consideration of nominations for the Malcolm Flash Award for Excellence in Community Development and the Bob Swett Award for Excellence in Housing; and an update from Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization, Inc. (CAN-DO) on the organization's progress in meeting the goals outlined in their July 8, 2009 letter to the Planning and Development Board. The Board acting as the Planning Board will review the summary report of the March 17, 2011 meeting drafted by the Mixed-Use Element Subcommittee of the Planning and Development Board for the Zoning and Planning Committee and discuss educational efforts on the Element from the Planning and Development Board, as requested by the Zoning and Planning Committee. **Contact Kathleen Cahill at 617.796.1125 or kcahill@newtonma.gov.**

- **Fair Housing Committee:** The Committee will meet on **Wednesday, April 6th** at 8:00 a.m. in Room 202. The agenda includes the review and approval of the March meeting minutes; status of the Fair Housing Month event; requested review of proposed Newton Housing Authority Reasonable Accommodations Policy; status of Architectural Access Report and determination of further procedures; discussion of the committee's work plan; membership issues; and other business, including discussion of Metro Boston Consortium for Sustainable Communities Agreement. **Contact Robert Muollo, Jr. at 617.796.1146 or rmuollo@newtonma.gov.**
- **Community Preservation Committee:** The Committee's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 6th**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Newton Senior Center (345 Walnut Street, Newtonville). The agenda includes pre-proposals for Newton's next **Open Space Plan** and for housing for adults with disabilities at **173 Lincoln Street** (Newton Highlands), and updates on several **Historic Newton** proposals & projects: exterior preservation of the **Jackson Homestead**, remodeling to improve the museum's accessibility and the usability of the its **Archives**, and fundraising and construction for the Durant-Kenrick Homestead. Full agendas and proposals are online from www.newtonma.gov/cpa, or **contact Alice Ingerson at 617.796.1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov.**
- **Transportation Advisory Committee:** The next Transportation Advisory Committee will be held on **Wednesday April 6th** at 7:00 p.m. in the War Memorial of City Hall. The Committee will discuss recommendations of the Transportation Planning and Complete Streets subcommittee. **Contact David Koses at 617.796.1133 or dkoses@newtonma.gov.**
- **Zoning Reform Scoping Group:** The Zoning Reform Scoping Group will meet on **Thursday, April 7th** 7:00 p.m. in the War Memorial of City Hall. **Contact Jennifer Molinsky at 617.796.1131 or jmolinsky@newtonma.gov; or Seth Zeren at 617.796.1121 or szeren@newtonma.gov.**
- **The Farm Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Thursday, April 7th** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 222. The following items are on the agenda: Updates will be given on the Hoophouse Grant, pullet shed, building insurance and on the Community Preservation Committee's Barn Renovation Project; Commission reappointments and minutes will be discussed. **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov.**
- **Austin Street Joint Advisory Planning Group:** The Austin Street JAPG will meet on **Thursday, April 7** at 7:00 p.m. at the Newton Senior Center at 345 Walnut Street in Newtonville. The agenda includes election of officers, discussion of topics of interest, and determination of future meeting dates and agendas. **Contact Eve Tapper at 617.796.1141 or etapper@newtonma.gov.**
- **Newtonville Historic District Commission:** The April meeting of the Newtonville Historic District Commission has been **cancelled**. The next filing deadline is April 27th and the next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, May 5th**. **Contact Katy Holmes at 617.796.1143 or kholmes@newtonma.gov.**
- **"Save the Date" for the next phase of Envisioning Needham Street!** The Planning and Development Department is moving forward with a master planning process for the Needham Street corridor. This process will build on the recent work of MIT graduate students to establish a vision for Needham Street. Whether you are a property owner, a business owner, a resident who lives on or near the corridor or anyone who works, shops, or frequents the Needham Street, we hope that you will participate in upcoming meetings. The next meeting will provide a summary of the development ideas to date, and will invite participants to share their thoughts about what's good and not so good about the existing conditions in order to develop a shared view of possible enhancements for the future. The community meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 14th** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the War Memorial in City Hall. **Contact Candace Havens at 617-796-1137 or chavens@newtonma.gov.**